

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 11, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully considered. In response, several claims have been amended. Among other claim changes, independent claim 8 has been revised to include the subject matter previously recited in dependent claim 12, which has been canceled, and an additional limitation has also been added to claim 8.. Claims 13 – 17 have been cancelled.. New claims 18 - 38 have been added to further protect the invention. Of these new claims, claims 25, 31, 34, 37, and 38 are independent.

In section 2 of, the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 4 and been rejected for anticipation by Gibbons et al (hereafter simply "Gibbons"). However, step (b) of claim 1 recites "steadily exposing the spatial light modulator to light of the first color component during substantially the entire time that step (a) is conducted..." (emphasis supplied). In step (a) of claim 1, the pixels of the spatial light modulator are turned on or off in accordance with values of the video words of a first color component for each bit rank of the video words. In contrast, Gibbons's Figure 2 shows that Gibbons's spatial light modulator is exposed to separate pulses of light for the different bit ranks. Gibbons neither discloses nor suggests "steadily exposing" a spatial light modulator to light as different it ranks of video words are displayed.

Independent claim 4 includes a step (b) that recites, "substantially steadily exposing the spatial light modulator to light that varies in intensity while step (a) is conducted." New independent claim 25 includes a step (c) that recites, "steadily exposing the spatial light modulator to light of the first color component while steps (a) and (b) are conducted, the light having an intensity that changes substantially while steps (a) and (b) are being conducted." For reasons along the lines discussed above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the invention is defined by independent claims 4 and 25 are patentable.

In section 4, the Office Action rejects independent claim 8 for obviousness on the basis of Gibbons in view of Heimbuch et al (hereafter simply "heimbuch"). As was noted previously, claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter previously recited in

independent claim 12. In section 5, the office action rejects claim 12 for obviousness on the basis of Gibbons and Heimbuch, in further view of Florence. Accordingly, the rejection now applicable to independent claim 8 is based on Gibbons, Heimbuch, and Florence.

Claim 8 now provides that a digital micromirror device is exposed "to flashes impinging on the digital micromirror device from a first direction, and also to flashes impinging on the digital micromirror device from a second direction, and also to flashes impinging on the digital micromirror device from a third direction." In both Gibbons and Heimbuch, the light impinges on the spatial light modulator from only one direction. The Office Action draws attention to Florence's figure 12, where light impinges on a spatial light modulator 15 from two directions after passing through color wheels 34a and 34b. However, there is nothing to suggest impingement of light from yet another direction. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by claim 8 is patentable over the cited references.

New independent claim 38 likewise requires light impinging from three directions. Claim 38 is therefore patentable over the cited references with the same reason as claim 8.

New independent claim 31 include steps (c) and (d) in which light from a light source is detected and integrated. Then follows step (e), in which pixels in a plurality of rows of a spatial light modulator are turned on or off in accordance with values of the video words for a new bit rank "when the integrated light reaches a predetermined value." New independent claim 34 includes a step (b) in which the bit ranks of the video words describing a given frame in a sequence are displayed in a predetermined order, and a step (c) in which the bit ranks of the video words for the next frame are displayed in a different order. New independent claim 37 includes a step (c) in which the two least significant bits of the video words for a first color component of an image are displayed during one revolution of the color wheel, and a step (d) in which the most significant bits of the video words for the first color component are displayed during at least two additional revolutions of the color wheel. These features of claims 31, 34 and 37 are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Since the remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with their independent claims and need not be further discussed.

It is noted that this application has been amended to include 30 claims, eight of them independent. Accordingly, an additional claim fee of \$310 is included in a remittance that is being submitted concurrently. Should this remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, though, please charge any fees that may be needed to our Deposit Account 18-0002 and notify us accordingly.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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